



Saguaro National Park (West)

Naturalist Program Schedule

Programs meet at the Red Hills Visitor Center, 2700 N. Kinney Road, and last 30 to 45 minutes, unless noted otherwise. All programs are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5158 for updates. See www.nps.gov/sagu for other programs.

January 1 4 p.m. **Twilight Glow** Hike: 3 ½ hours, 2 ½ miles

January 31 4:30 p.m. This 2 ½-mile walk bridges sunset into moonlight, letting hikers experience the desert in both the twilight glow and moon shadows. It ascends a hill with a firmly packed trail, then descends a sandy wash, and completes the triangle with a return walk on a dirt road. Ages 10 and older. **Reservations required: 733-5158.**

January 2 3:15 p.m. **Sunset Hike** Hike: 3 ¾ hours, 3 ½ miles

The route gains 700 feet (with some switchbacks near the top) before reaching a ridgeline for sunset; the descent is by the light of the moon. Ages 10 and older. **Reservations required; 733-5158**

January 3 4:00 p.m. **Moon Take Night, Make Day** Hike: 3 hours, 2 ½ miles

This 3-hour, 2.5-mile hike follows a desert wash and then ascends an easy hill during the transition from day to night, with a return down the hill and a dirt roadway in the moonlight. This hike is considered easy to moderate and has a few rock outcroppings in the wash. Ages 10 and older. **Reservations required: 733-5158**

January 4 6:00 p.m. **Moonrise Over The Mountain** Night Patio Presentation: 45 minutes

Guitarist, singer, and songwriter Mark William will perform during this popular “campfire” program on the patio. Joining him will be Robert Hovl, who plays the Native American flute. Listen to music while enjoying a relaxing view of the full moon as it rises above the cactus forest and mountains. No reservations are required; bring a lawn chair and warm clothing. No pets or food, please. All ages welcome. *Wheelchair accessible.*

January 30 2:30 p.m. **Wasson Peak** Hike: 6 ½ to 7 hours, 8 miles

This 6 ½- to 7-hour, 8-mile, round-trip hike climbs 1,700 feet to the highest point in the Tucson Mountains. Enjoy the 360-degree view of the sunset before descending by the light of the moon. The hike is at an easy to moderate pace but is considered difficult due to length of the hike, gains in elevation, and hiking after dark. Ages 12 and older. **Reservations required: 733-5158.**

January 10 9:45 a.m. **Bird Walk** 30 minutes plus optional additional 30 minutes, ½ mile

Join us for a 30-minute walk in the sandy wash behind the Visitor Center to see what birds live there among the cacti and shrubs. We will learn how they find food, water and shelter. Participants interested in more will drive 2 miles to Sus Picnic area (restrooms available) with its rocky canyon and hills for another 30-minute walk to see what wrens, hawks and other birds live there. The walk is on sand and dirt roads. Birders and non-birders of all ages are invited. This walk is scheduled for the second Saturday morning of every month from January through April. No reservations required.

January 8, 15, 22, 29 2:15 p.m. **Geology of the Tucson Mountains** Talk: 45 minutes

The Tucson Mountains used to be part of the Santa Catalinas. A geologist explains how they separated and what is shaping the Tucson Mountains today. *Wheelchair accessible.*

January 4, 7, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29 11:15 a.m. **Desert Jigsaw Puzzle** 45 minutes, 100 yards

January 2, 3, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 1:15 p.m. When competition and cooperation vie for attention in the Sonoran Desert, the result is an intricate, wondrous jigsaw puzzle of plants and animals. *Wheelchair accessible.*

January 5, 12, 19, 26 2:15 p.m. **Puma: Predator, Prey, and Peril** Talk: 45 minutes

Often called puma, cougar, or mountain lion, this elusive predator is secretive, nocturnal and elusive. Explore the threats that this creature faces as it struggles to survive within an ever-shrinking habitat. *Wheelchair accessible.*

January 30 2:15 p.m. **Snakes of Saguaro NP** Talk: 30 minutes

January 17, 24 11:15 a.m. Saguaro National Park is home to 26 known species of snakes, including 7 venomous snakes. Why so many? What do they do and what do they eat? What precautions do I need to take when visiting the Park? *Wheelchair accessible.*

January 11, 17, 18, 25 2:15 p.m. **Neighborhood Characters** Walk: 30 minutes, 100 yards

On an easy walk in the Cactus Garden you will meet desert plants that may remind you of people you may know, including "Bill Gates." *Wheelchair accessible*

January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 10:15 a.m. **The Plants Tell All** Hike: 2 hours, 1½ miles

Plants are the foundation of the web of life. Join a park naturalist to learn the secrets of what ties the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert together. Plant survival, insects and spiders, birds and mammals -- nothing is off limits on this discovery trek through the desert. Questions are welcome. For this moderate walk wear closed-toed shoes and a hat, and bring water.

January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 11:15 a.m. **Living With Giants** Talk: 30 minutes

The saguaro celebrates events and faces challenges throughout its life. A biologist explains how it provides shelter and substance for wildlife; when it flowers; its growth patterns; and how it fights for survival against drought, lightning, frost, and other dangers. *Wheelchair accessible*.

January 6, 13, 20, 27 1:15 p.m. **Synergy in the Desert: The Sonoran Habitat** Talk and Walk: 45 minutes

For all of life, "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts" is true. The iconic Saguaro is the focal point for a discussion of how the parts of the Sonoran Desert work together to create a rich living desert that is unique in the world.

January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 2:15 p.m. **Lizards are Hot, Lizards are Cool** Talk: 30 minutes

Frequently overlooked, discover how these small denizens of the desert become a critical component of our desert community. *Wheelchair accessible*.

January 20, 27 2:15 p.m. **How Do They Do It?** Walk: 15 minutes, 100 yards

Discover how the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert have adapted to the harsh conditions of this unique environment. *Wheelchair accessible*.

January 20, 27 3:15 p.m. **Whales in the Desert** Talk: 45 minutes

Learn about the unique connection between whales and the Sonoran Desert. *Wheelchair accessible*.

January 6, 20 10:15 a.m. **Adaptations: Recipe for Survival** Easy 100-yard walk

Take a walk in our Cactus Garden Walk to discover some physical and behavioral adaptations of desert plants.

January 6, 20 11:15 a.m. **Life Cycle of the Saguaro: Seed to Giant** Walk: 45 minutes, 100 yards

Hear some astonishing reasons about why so few Saguaro seeds make it to fruition.

January 5, 12, 19, 26 10:15 a.m. **God's "Dog" and/or Desert "Pigs"** Talk: 30-45 minutes

You never know who you'll meet in the desert, including coyotes and javelinas. This Monday morning talk will alternate between the two animals and relate both fact and fancy. *Wheelchair accessible*.